

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 remain present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 9 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim for Foreign Priority

It is noted that the Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority, but has not clearly indicated whether the certified copy of the priority document has been received, as neither box 12a, 12b, or 12c was checked on the Office Action Summary. It is noted that the certified copy of the priority document was submitted on September 17, 2003. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that, in claim 1, line 9, "the initial shift-register unit" has been amended to --an initial shift-register unit--.

In claim 9, lines 21-22 and 28-29, "the output signal of the subsequent stage shift-register unit" has been amended to --the

pulse signal of a shift-register unit of a subsequent stage--, and "the output signal of the previous stage shift-register unit" to --the pulse signal of a shift-register unit of a previous stage--.

In claim 9, lines 32-33 and 35-36, "the odd stage shift-register units" has been amended to --shift-register units of odd stages--, and "the even stage shift-register units" to --shift-register units of even stages--.

In claim 19, lines 19-20 and 24-25, "the output signal of the subsequent stage shift-register unit" has been amended to --the pulse signal of a shift-register unit of a subsequent stage--, and "the output signal of the previous stage shift-register unit" to --the pulse signal of a shift-register unit of a previous stage--.

The Examiner has also asserted that the "first clock signal" and the "second clock signal" in claim 11 lack a clear antecedent basis.

However, claim 9 recites that the clock terminals of shift-register units of odd stages are connected to a *first clock signal* as the clock signal, and the clock terminals of shift-register units of even stages are connected to a *second clock signal* as the clock signal, in lines 32-37. Claim 11 depends from claim 10, which depends from claim 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the first clock signal and the second clock signal in claim 11 have clear antecedent basis.

The Examiner has also asserted that the "setting signal" in claims 13 and 15 lacks a clear antecedent basis.

However, claim 9 recites a setting terminal for receiving a *setting signal* for triggering the shift-register unit to output the clock signal as the pulse signal, in lines 13-15. Claims 13 and 15 depend from claim 12, which depends from claim 11, which depends from claim 10, which depends from claim 9. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the setting signal in claims 13 and 15 has a clear antecedent basis.

The Examiner has also asserted that the "first clock signal", "second clock signal" and "third clock signal" in claim 21 lack a clear antecedent basis.

However, claim 19 recites that the clock terminals of the first-stage and the fourth-stage shift-register units are connected to a *first clock signal* as the clock signal, the clock terminal of the second-stage shift-register unit is connected to a *second clock signal* as the clock signal and the clock terminal of the third-stage shift-register unit is connected to a *third clock signal* as the clock signal, in lines 28-36. Claim 21 depends from claim 20, which depends from claim 19. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the first, second and third clock signal in claim 21 have clear antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims particularly point out and distinctly

claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers 1-28 to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

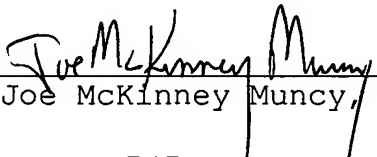
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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